

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 261005 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6513

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1369

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECKR

JUX# CSAF AND CNO

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO KUWAIT: PURCHASE OF FOLLOW- ON
AIRCRAFT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD APRIL 25, I TOLD HIM
I CONTINUED BE CONCERNED ABOUT KUWAITI AIR FORCE EXPANSION
PLANS. SAID IF GOK ACCEPTED US F-8 OFFER AND OFFER TRAIN
KUWAIT PILOTS IN US IN 17 MONTHS, FOLLOW- ON AIRCRAFT SHOULD
BE AMERICAN AND NOT FRENCH OR OTHER NON- US PRODUCT.

2. SAAD REPLIED THAT AS RESULT ITS EUROPEAN TRIP, KUWAITI MILITARY
TEAM HAD REPORTED MIRAGE F-1 AS BEST INTERCEPTOR FOR KUWAIT.
GOK PLANNED GO AHEAD WITH PURCHASE F-1 AS FOLLOW- ON TO F-8
UNLESS US ABLE PRODUCE OFFER THAT KAF CONSIDERED BETTER.

3. I ASKED SAAD IF HE WOULD BE WILLING DELAY FINAL DECISION

ON F-1 UNTIL WE HAD OPPORTUNITY CONSULT AGAIN WITH WASHINGTON.
SAAD SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL USG THOUGHTS AND HE
WOULD LIKE QTE GO US ALL THE WAY UNQTE. HE SAID HE WOULD DEFER
SIGNATURE ON F-1 CONTRACT FOR SHORT PERIOD PENDING FINAL ANSWER
FROM USG AS TO WHAT WE WILLING DO FOR GOK ON FOLLOW- ON AIRCRAFT.

4. COMMENT: HERE IS OBVIOUS GOLDEN APPORTUNITY PERSUADE
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GOK BUY FOLLOW- ON AMERICAN AIRCRAFT FOR ITS AIR FORCE. IF
WE COULD OFFER SELL FOLLOW - ON AIRCRAFT IN 1976-77 TIME
FRAM, GOK MIGHT BE CONVINCED CONTINUE WITH US MANUFACTURED
AIRCRAFT. POSSIBLE OPTIONS MIGHT BE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER,
F-14 OR F-15. IN THIS CONNECTION, DO WE HAVE A TARGET DATE
FOR LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER BEING OPERATION AND ANY SPECIFICATIONS?
F-5 IS NO LONGER VIABLE ALTERNATIVE. KUWAITIS NOT RPT NOT INT-
ERESTED IN F-5.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST AUTHORITY BY COB 28 APRIL LOCAL
TO OFFER TO GOK US WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC FOLLOW- ON
AIRCRAFT AS OUTLINED PARA 4 ABOVE.
STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OC/ T: KUWAIT 1369. # AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON
REQUEST.

NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT01369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730456/aaaajbcy.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980206
Subject: MILITARY SALES TO KUWAIT: PURCHASE OF FOLLOWUP-ON AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, KU
To: SS
STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005